



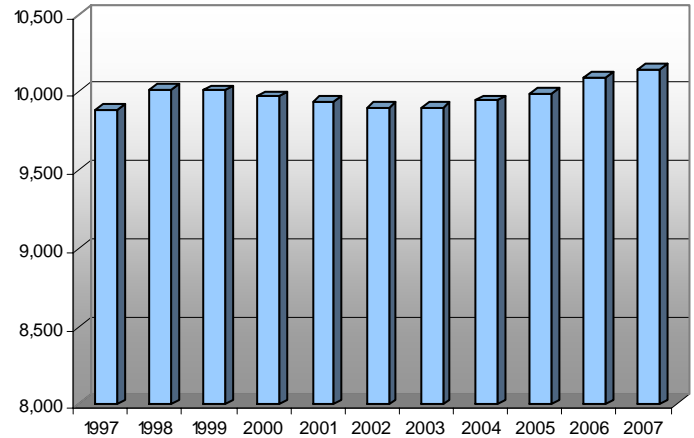
# Washington County

October 2008

## Work Force Trends

### Population

Washington County ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in population and 20<sup>th</sup> in area out of Idaho's 44 counties. Washington County's population began a slight decline in 1999 which continued until 2003 when the population began its comeback and has continued to increase ever since. The population grew from 9,887 in 1997 to 10,147 in 2007. The overall population growth over the decade was only 260 new residents for a growth rate of 2.6 percent. This is down considerably from 1996 to 2006's increase in population of 5.7 percent which in turn was down over a full percentage point from 1995 to 2005's growth rate of 6.8 percent. While the population growth is slowing down, it is still nearly two percentage points above what it was in the mid 1990's.

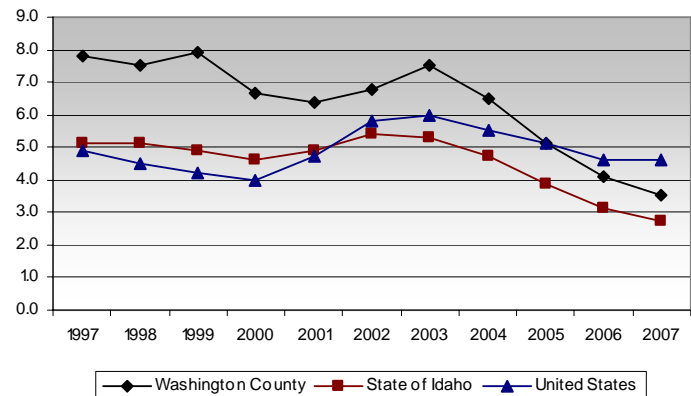


### Labor Force & Employment

Washington County's civilian labor force grew by 444 people during the 10 year period of 1997 to 2007, for a growth rate of 9.7 percent. This is down from the 12.1 percent growth experienced from 1996 to 2006 and the 14.9 percent from 1995 and 2005. The unemployment rate has dropped significantly over the past decade from a high of 7.9 percent in 1999 to a low of 4.1 percent in 2006 and finally to below the four percent level commonly considered full employment in 2007 coming in at 3.6 percent. Prior to 2007, Washington County was one of only three counties in southwestern Idaho whose unemployment rate was above four percent.

As in most southwest Idaho counties, nonfarm payroll job growth slowed during 2007 in Washington County. Like some of the rural areas of southwestern Idaho construction continues to be a little better off than in the larger metropolitan areas or tourist destinations as people continue

### Unemployment Rates

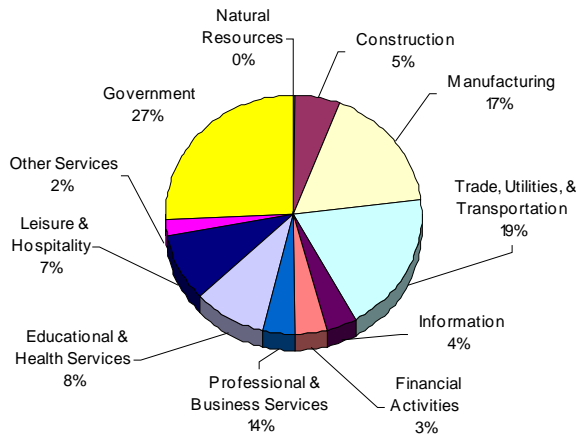


Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	5,074	5,115
Total Employment	4,939	4,879
Unemployed	136	236
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	4.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

to build due to the lower cost of living and lower land prices. Construction added 15 jobs in 2007 amounting to a growth rate of 10.7 percent. Manufacturing however declined by 21.2 percent amounting to a loss of 131 jobs during the year, as Washington County's food manufacturers continued to struggle, and the other manufacturing sectors fought with eroding demand for their products as the effects of the slowing national and regional economy began showing up in the more rural Idaho counties.

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	4,580	4,658	4,626	5,168	5,076	5,105	4,722	5,016	5,031	4,906	5,028
Unemployment	355	350	367	343	324	347	356	325	257	202	178
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	7.5	7.9	6.6	6.4	6.8	7.5	6.5	5.1	4.1	3.5
Employment	4,225	4,308	4,259	4,825	4,753	4,758	4,366	4,692	4,774	4,705	4,850

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



## Per Capita Income & Employment

As has been the case in other southwestern Idaho counties, Washington County jumped in its ranking of per capita income. As of the latest Census data, per capita income ranked 33rd in the state in 2004 at \$21,863 and had increased to \$22,548 in 2005, moving Washington County up to 29th in the state.

Government and manufacturing account for 39.3 percent of covered employment. This is down from 44.5 percent of covered employment in 2006 and 46.6 percent in 2005. The reasons for this are a struggling food manufacturing sector over the last several years and in 2007, a slowing economy that as previously mentioned has decreased demand for the products made by Washington County manufacturers.

## Major Employers

Appleton Produce
City of Weiser
Champion Home Builders
Hometown Ford
Cambridge School District
Weiser Memorial Hospital
Ridley's
Washington County
Midvale School District
Weiser School District

## Occupational Wages\*

## Starting Wage

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Bank Teller	\$7.85
Bookkeeper	\$8.58
Retail Salesperson	\$6.26
Nursing Aides	\$7.53
Truck Driver	\$11.49
Farm Equipment Operators	\$7.85
Agricultural Workers	\$7.10
Shipping & Receiving Clerks	\$11.12
Construction Laborer	\$9.31
Carpenter	\$15.53

\*Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	3,005	\$16,828	2,991	\$24,181	3,011	\$24,911
<b>Agriculture</b>	462	\$10,600	238	\$18,118	265	\$18,781
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Construction</b>	158	\$16,379	140	\$23,287	150	\$25,558
<b>Manufacturing</b>	460	\$21,700	619	\$27,485	488	\$29,118
<b>Trade, Utilities, &amp; Transportation</b>	532	\$15,905	468	\$23,812	524	\$25,127
<b>Information</b>	92	\$23,382	109	\$32,528	105	\$32,515
<b>Financial Activities</b>	87	\$22,479	86	\$29,039	92	\$34,295
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	94	\$17,336	128	\$25,157	123	\$26,630
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	222	\$15,717	221	\$22,753	258	\$23,345
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	188	\$6,937	232	\$8,565	261	\$8,756
<b>Other Services</b>	39	\$14,604	36	\$28,716	45	\$26,252
<b>Government</b>	672	\$20,187	713	\$27,026	697	\$27,858

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Washington County</b>	\$17,021	\$17,998	\$18,377	\$18,412	\$19,387	\$19,599	\$20,277	\$21,346	\$22,663	\$23,648
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
<b>United States</b>	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:  
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